

MARKED UP SET OF CLAIMS TO SHOW CHANGES

2. (Amended) A spindle motor including a stator component[,] and a rotor component, said components including a shaft and a hub, said shaft and hub being provided for relative rotation and said hub for supporting one or more discs, said hub including a hub sleeve including a cylindrical portion surrounding said shaft, [and] said motor comprising a bearing assembly between the components, formed of a journal bearing and a thrust bearing, wherein the journal bearing is an aerodynamic bearing provided between said shaft and said cylindrical portion of said hub sleeve and the thrust bearing is adapted to function in a bi-directional manner and includes an annular member projecting radially from one of the shaft and sleeve [components] into an associated recess formed in the other of the [components] shaft and sleeve, wherein the annular member has two opposed bearing faces arranged adjacent corresponding bearing surfaces of [the] said recess portion, and a hydrodynamic thrust bearing is formed between the respective bearing faces and surfaces, both a hydrodynamic thrust bearing and an aerodynamic journal bearing thereby being provided between said shaft and said hub sleeve of said components.

3. (Amended) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 2, wherein the journal bearing is formed between said [a] shaft [of one of the components] and [an associated] said hub sleeve [of the other one of the components] and the shaft is provided with a passage extending therethrough for providing air flow through the motor to the aerodynamic bearing, so as to allow air to be entrained into the journal bearing during operation.

4. (Amended) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 3, wherein the bearing surfaces diverge from the bearing faces adjacent [the] said shaft so that liquid between the annular member and [the] said recess portion of said hub sleeve is retained therebetween by surface tension seals.

6. (Amended) A spindle motor as claimed in claim 5, wherein the shaft is fixed relative to the stator and the hub sleeve forms part of the rotor.